DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Annual Report
for fiscal year ended
MARCH 31, 1982

Province of Nova Scotia
Department of Municipal Affairs

P.O. Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2M4

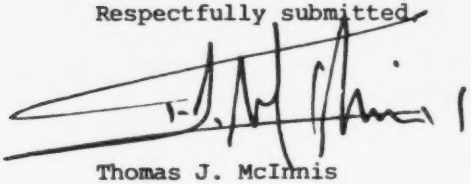
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

The Honourable John E. Shaffner
Lieutenant-Governor
Province of Nova Scotia

May It Please Your Honour:

I have the honour to present to you the ninth Annual Report of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. McInnis

Province of Nova Scotia
Department of Municipal Affairs
P.O. Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2M4

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER

The Honourable Thomas J. McInnis
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Province of Nova Scotia
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Sir:

I take pleasure in presenting to you a report of the activities of the Department of Municipal Affairs, for the year ending March 31, 1982.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mullally

John Mullally

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REPORT OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER

The main objectives of the Department of Municipal Affairs are to provide municipal government in Nova Scotia with sound advice, guidance and assistance; to effectively administer the various financial programs available to the municipalties as well as the many Acts and Regulations affecting municipal government; to develop in consultation with municipal governments, new and innovative policies and programs aimed at meeting the changing needs of municipal government; and, to foster and maintain good provincial-municipal relations through effective co-operation and consultation. In the past year the Department has continued to work closely with the municipal governments of Nova Scotia to ensure that these objectives are realized.

The Joint Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities - Department of Municipal Affairs Task Force on Municipal Reform continues to provide a valuable forum for the frank exchange of views and opinions. Comprised of senior staff of the Department and the executive director, solicitor and financial consultant of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, the Task Force process has been instrumental in assisting the Department and the municipalities to better understand each other's concerns and interests.

The Planning Act Review Committee (PARC), established by the Minister of Municipal Affairs in 1980 to review the Province's planning legislation and procedures emanating from it released its final report in November 1981. Municipal Affairs staff provided legal and executive secretarial support for PARC. We extend our thanks to the members of the Committee for the long hours and hard work they contributed to this important review process.

In addition to its on-going publication of office consolidations of major statutes affecting municipal government and the reports titled "Financial Assistance Programs for Nova Scotia Municipalities" and "Municipal Statistics", the Department has now prepared and published the "Municipal Elections Handbook". The handbook is available through the Nova Scotia Government Bookstore at 1597 Hollis Street, Halifax, B3J 2T3, and outlines the new election procedures arising from proclamation of the Municipal Elections Act in 1979.

Providing financial assistance to the Province's sixty-six municipalities continues to be a high priority for Municipal Affairs. During 1981 - '82, the Department provided $125.8 million to municipalities in the form of grants. Of this amount $105.0 million was made available under the Municipal Grants Act.

The Department looks forward to continued cooperation and support from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and its sixty-six member units as staff and elected officials work toward a further strengthening of municipal government in Nova Scotia.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN NOVA SCOTIA

The term "municipality" in Nova Scotia has two distinct meanings. In one sense it means all local governments, as is usual elsewhere in Canada. In the other sense, municipality means a municipality as constituted under the Municipal Act, and often referred to as a rural municipality.

The province is geographically divided into 18 counties. Twelve of these counties constitute separate municipalities. The remaining six counties are each divided into two districts, and each of these districts constitutes a separate municipality. There are thus 24 rural municipalities.

In addition to the rural municipalities there are 39 incorporated towns and three cities. On July 1, 1980, Bedford gained status as a town and became the first town to be incorporated since 1923. Each city has its own charter. While located within the boundaries of a rural municipality, the towns and cities are politically and administratively separate from and independent of the rural municipality, except with respect to joint expenditures.

In addition, there are other organizations providing what are commonly considered to be municipal services. Within the rural municipalities, these include:

(1) village commissioners, incorporated under the Village Service Act, to furnish municipal services to a more densely populated area of a rural municipality. There are now 26 such village commissions.

(2) local commissions incorporated under special Acts of the Legislature, generally for street lighting and fire protection. There appears to be authority for 38 commissions; of these, at least some never operated. Few statistics for these commissions are available.

(3) rural fire districts, incorported under the Rural Fire District Act to provide fire protection (presently nine).

(4) other special purpose forms of local government have been authorized by a number of statutes. A few rural municipalities have special legislation to regulate the provision of services to specific areas.

Village commissioners, local commissions, rural fire districts and some other special purpose bodies are authorized to levy taxes in addition to those levied by the rural municipality itself. In most cases these taxes are collected by the rural municipality. None of these special purpose bodies may be established in a town or a city.

In a number of cases, commissions have been established in cities, towns and rural municipalities for such purposes as operating municipal facilities, for example a hospital, parking lot, utility, cemetery or rink; for implementing municipal programs such as parks and recreation; or for operating a joint municipal facility such as a courthouse.

Generally, these commissions do not have power to levy a tax, and are financed directly by the municipal unit.

In 1981 as a result of the Report of the Commission on Public Education Finance, the eighty-five school boards in the Province were consolidated into twenty-one District School Boards. While these boards have very little direct relationship with the Department of Municipal Affairs, their responsibility for education makes them very important components of the municipal system since education is the single largest item of expenditure for most municipalities.

The basic element of municipal finance is the property tax, together with a number of variants such as the occupancy tax. Also important to municipal governments are grants from the provincial and federal governments.

Further details concerning the municipalities and many of the other organizations that provide municipal services, including school boards, are contained in the Department's Annual Report of Municipal Statistics.

THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Municipal Affairs was established under the authority of the Municipal Affairs (Supervision) Act of 1935, proclaimed in force on September 1, 1936, to provide for the supervison of municipal accounts and records and to regulate municipal borrowing.

The Act was intended to relieve the Legislature, which each year had been deluged with borrowing bills without sufficient time or the necessary machinery to make full enquiries. It was also intended to assure the investing public, asked to purchase municipal debentures, that a proper investigation of the merits of the borrowing had been made. This, in turn, was expected to reflect itself in a higher demand for such debentures.

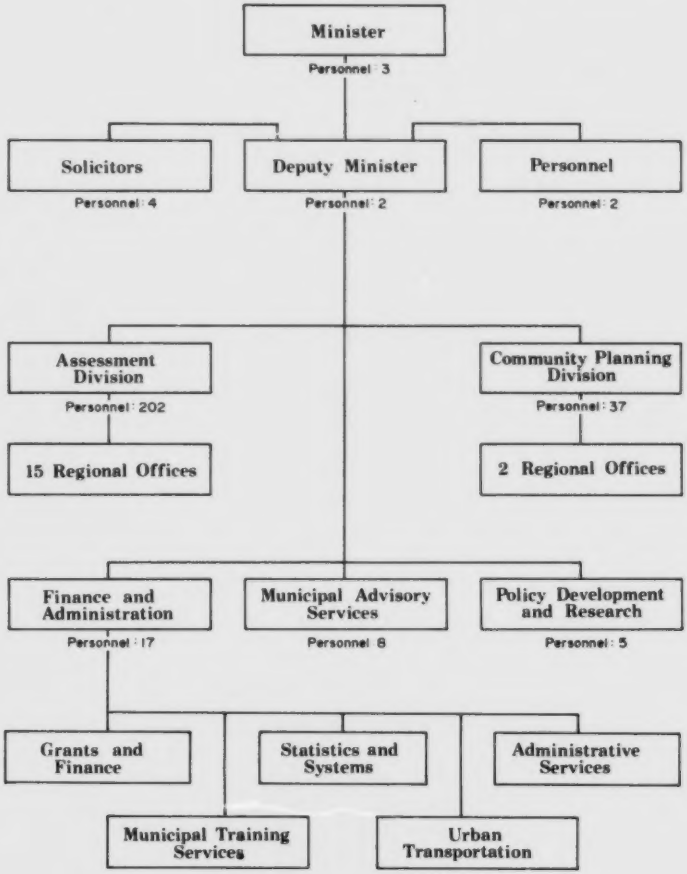
While an Assessment Division was not established until 1956, the Department's involvement in assessment dates back a number of years. In 1952 the Department established the first schocl for assesors which has been continued annually. A correspondence course for assessors, offered by the Dalhousie Institute of Public Affairs, was instituted in 1961. These training programs have greatly increased the competence and professionalism of assessors.

The Assessment Act was thoroughly revised in 1966 creating several assessment regions. By 1969 there were 16 assesment areas--13 officially designated regions and three single large municipalities. On January 1, 1976, the province acsumed complete responsibility for the assessment function. As a

ORGANIZATION CHART

Department of Municipal Affairs

March 31, 1982



result, 1978 was the first year that almost all property in the Province was assessed uniformly.

In 1943, the Department first acquired planning responsibilities when the Town Planning act of 1939 was proclaimed. This Act gave to the Minister of Municipal Affairs the powers formerly exercised by the Minister of Public Works and Mines regarding approval of official town plans, planning by-laws, and for passing regulations respecting planning. The Minister had the authority to order a municipality to plan, to zone and to map; he could enforce a plan or a zoning by-law; and he could, in the last extremity, take over the planning functions of a municipal unit. In practice, these coercive powers were not exercised because the Department considered that planning could be better encouraged by providing advice and technical assistance. In 1957 the Department established the Community Planning Division as a source of consultation and advice for municipal units regarding planning matters. By 1968 it was evident that the Town Planning Act needed substantial revisions. A major review of the Act led to a new Planning Act in 1969, which was proclaimed in 1970.

The first grants to municipalities of a general nature were the distribution of one-third of the payments in lieu of taxes made by the CNR. The next substantial increase in grants occurred in 1942, when the province surrendered its right, and therefore, the right of its municipalities to tax income, and paid municipalities a per capita grant to compensate them for the loss of revenue.

The Province increased its assistance to municipalities in several ways from 1942 to 1967 but the most important change was the introduction of the

Municipal Services Program in 1967. In the same year the Grants and Finance Division was established to administer this new program; the program has since proven to be very important to municipalities by providing financial assistance for basic local services such as fire and police protection, garbage and refuse collection and disposal, street lighting, and the capital costs of roads, streets and water and sewer systems.

A Research Division was established in 1974 to provide information and policy advice to other divisions and to the Deputy Minister.

In an effort to provide a complete range of tec - nical and administrative advice to municipalities, the Department, in 1976, established the Municipal Advisory Services Division. The same year the residential Property Tax Relief Grant was introduced to relieve residential property taxpayers of the largest part of education costs.

In 1981, a re-organization placed three sections under the new Finance and Administration Division. These are Grants and Finance, Administrative Services and Municipal Training Services.

The Department of Municipal Affairs is responsible for providing advice, guidance and assistance to municipal governments in Nova Scotia, for administering many of the provincial government's programs relating to municipalities, and for exercising general supervision of municipal affairs in the Province. From its initial function as a watchdog over municipal finance, particularly municipal capital borrowings, the Department has expanded its functions to include assisting municipal units in such diverse

areas as preparation and review of by-laws before they are submitted for the Minister's approval, preparation and issuance of debentures, preparation of all borrowing resolutions for capital purposes, assisting in the development of programs as they relate to municipalities, liaison with the federal government in areas that involve municipal activities, and in areas of planning, particularly at the regional level. The Department also has the responsibility for producing annual assessment rolls which form the basis for municipal taxation.

In cooperation with the Dalhousie Insitute of Public Affairs, the Department sponsors a correspondence course in preliminary accounting and a four-year correspondence course in municipal administration. Annually, a refresher course is also offered for municipal clerks, finance officers and administrators.

In addition to the correspondence course for assessors, the Department, throughout the year, offers a variety of assessment seminars and courses to keep staff up to date with new legislation and developments in assessment practice. Training programs have also been arranged for building inspectors and development officers. Other courses are planned as the need arises.

A summary of the Department's divisions, outlining their responsibilities and activities follows.

ASSESSMENT

It is the responsibility of the Assessment Division to provide each municipal unit with a complete and accurate yearly assessment roll.

In 1982 computerized assessment rolls and notices were produced for over 400,000 accounts in the 66 municipal units. Also assessment staff were busy explaining property assessments in the the Appeal Courts and preparing the 1983 assessment roll. Work has begun on the next province-wide re-assessment for the 1984 taxation year. This is carried out every three years by bringing the assessment of all properties to a market value benchmarked by a base date.

The Assessment Division is grateful to the Institute of Public Affairs of Dalhousie University which yearly administers the Three-Year Correspondence Course and the One-Year Advanced Course for assessors. Each year of the Three-Year Course is supplemented by seminars and a final exam. All assessor's are required to complete the Three-Year program as a condition of their employment with the Province.

At this year's Assessors' School certificates were awarded to seven 1981 graduates and eleven 1982 graduates of the Three-Year Course. Certificates were also awarded to five 1981 graduates and six 1982 graduates of the Advanced Course in Urban Land Economics

The Thirtieth Annual Assessors' School was held in April. It is devoted to improving the quality of assessment in Nova Scotia by raising the qualifications of practising assessors. The 1982 School was centred around instructional seminars on "Accrued Depreciation and the Mass Appraisal System".

To better develop and refine management skills within the Division, a managment course was developed in conjunction with the Institute of Public Affairs, Dalhousie University. The second annual management training course ran concurrently with the 1982 Assessors's School and was a great success.

Mr. Robert Warren, formerly the Assistant Provincial Director of Assessment, was appointed the Provincial Director of Assessment succeeding Mr. Fulton Andrews who had retired.

In response to growing complexities of the assessment process, three new Assistant Provincial Directors of Assessment were appointed to the Head Office staff to assist in the administration of the Regional Offices and will ensure a high standard of professionalism in the assessment function.

NOVA SCOTIA ASSESSMENT REGIONS

Province of Nova Scotia
Department of Municipal Affairs

COMMUNITY PLANNING

The Community Planning Division is responsible for the administration of the Planning Act and the provision of information and assistance in the land use and community planning field to municipalities and government departments. Regional offices located in Truro and Yarmouth provide technical support services for neighbouring municipalities.

The Planning Act provides for muncipal development plans, zoning by-laws, subdivision regulations, and subdivision by-laws for individual municipalities, and for regional planning in areas covering one or more municipalities. Provision is also made in the Act for District Planning Commissions and Municipal Planning Advisory Committees.

In view of the local impact of municipal planning, the Planning Act has delegated the responsibility for municipal development plans and zoning by-laws to municipalities, with provision for provincial support. This enables a municipal council to use a plan and zoning by-law as a basis for council's decision-making in both the provison of public services and the management and regulation of land use and development.

Through liaison with local planners, the Division provides advice on plan initiation and development, and on general planning matters. In municipalities which do not have specialized planning capabilities the Division has initiated planning processes by increasing community awareness about planning, and assisting in the resolution of specific planning-related problems. In exceptional circumstances, with

the approval of the municipal council, the Division has played a more direct part in the preparation of the development plan and zoning by-law.

The Division also provides information and professional and technical support to other divisions and departments on land use policy, programs and projects. An extensive map library enables it to provide basemaps and information on existing land use, central sewer and water systems, and other land information to governments and the general public.

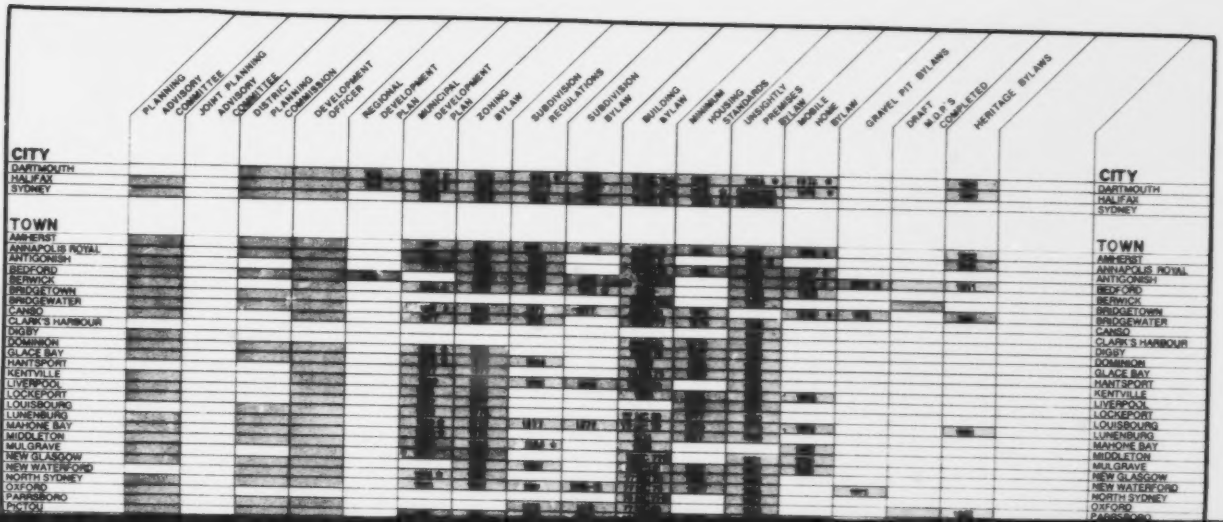
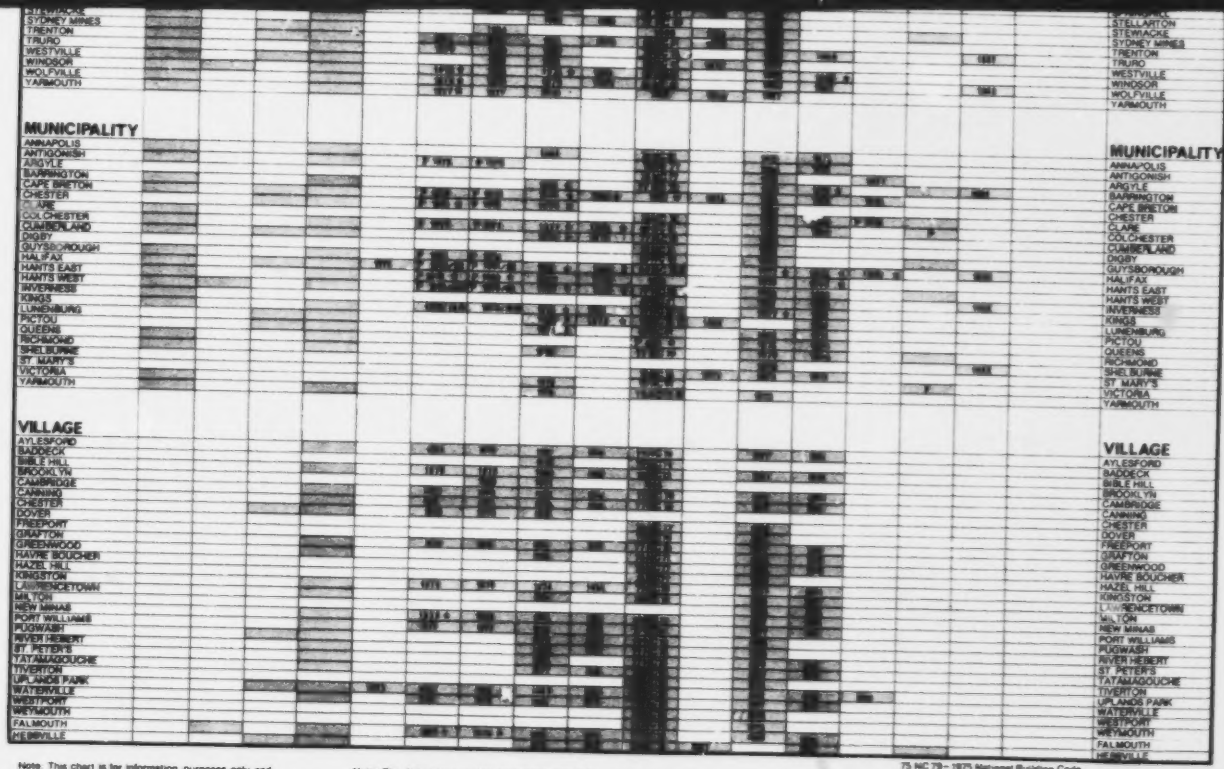
The Halifax-Dartmouth Regional Development Plan, covering provincial land-related policies for Halifax, Dartmouth, Bedford, and the County of Halifax, has been in effect since April 1975. The Division has been active in encouraging the implementation of the plan's policies (e.g., transit and regional parks) and in administering a permit system for development approv-ls.

During the past year, the Division, in conjunction with the Department of Development, other government departments, and the relevant municipalities continued a major review of the Regional Development Plan focusing on land use and physical services within the context of the probable economic future of the area. Various task forces have been carrying out studies of the many aspects of the Plan and will be preparing recommendations for a revised Regional Plan.

During 1981-82, six municipal development plans and zoning by-laws received Ministerial approval - those for the Towns of Annapolis Royal, Bridgewater, Trenton, and Pictou; for the Municipality West Hants;

NOVA SCOTIA

COMMUNITY PLANNING



Note: This chart is for information purposes only and is up to date as of July, 82. For accurate reference the records of the appropriate municipality should be consulted.

Note: The date shown on this chart is the date of the original document. An # indicates amendment. Amendments to a zoning bylaw are not shown on this chart except where the amendment reflects a substantial addition to the zoning bylaw which requires the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

75 NC 79 – 1975 National Building Code adopted 1979
P – Part of Municipality
I – Inactive

JULY 82

and two plans for the Municipality of the County of Halifax (Sackville and Lake Major). Six plans and by-laws are currently undergoing a five-year review, as required by the Planning Act. Nineteen plans and by-laws are currently being prepared by municipalities. Four of these are for rural areas; five are for towns or the more urbanized areas of the Province; and four are detailed area plans for the City of Halifax. Staff helped several municipalities prepare and prescribe subdivision regulations, as well as approve of subdivision by-laws and amendments to municipal development plans and zoning by-laws. Staff also continued their involvement in the Lake Major Watershed Working Committee.

The 12-member Planning Act Review Committee (established to review the Planning Act and make recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs on the preparation of a new Planning Act) published its Final Report. Departmental staff provided legal and executive secretarial support to the committee.

Staff have been working with other departments through the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Provincial Land Use Policy. Projects initiated through this Committee included studies of municipal watershed management, rural residential land subdivision procedures, downtown development, agricultural land use, coastal zone management, estuarine fisheries, and land use information systems.

Staff have also been involved in the Canada-Nova Scotia Flood Damage Reduction Program, the Halifax County Storm Drainage Task Force (set up in response to urban storm drainage flooding problems), the

Uranium Task Force, the Provincial Well Drilling Advisory Board, and Coastal Erosion Pilot Project Committee.

Amendments to the Towns Act were prepared during 1981-1982 to enable a municipality to establish an On-Site Wastewater Management District by means of a plebiscite.

The Division has also been involved with other departments in planning processes related to on-shore activities associated with the exploration and potential development of the off-shore Scotian Shelf gas. Involvement constists of providing land related information to interested parties, identifying opportunities and constraints in the development of these projects, participating in related inter-departmental and inter-governmental committees and encouraging early consultation with municipalities.

Staff appointments were made to an inter-departmental committee on heritage to deal with advice and cooperation on heritage matters of mutual concern. During 1981-1982, nine heritage by-laws under the Heritage Property Act were approved.

During the summer of 1981, a province-wide settlement land use survey was continued resulting in the preparation of maps which provide a wide range of information on settlement patterns and land use.

With the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture and Marketing, the agricultural land use mapping project continued. Cape Breton Island and Guysborough County were surveyed during the summer of 1981.

In the fall of 1981, the Division held the 5th annual Nova Scotia Planning Seminar entitled "Planning and Management". The focus of the seminar was on financial and administrative aspects of management as they relate to planning. The seminar was attended by approximately 150 people, chiefly professional planners from across the Province.

DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE

Legal Services

The Department's solicitors provide legal counsel to the Department on matters within the scope of the legislation which the Department administers. In addition, they review all by-laws passed by municipal councils before they are submitted for the Minister's approval.

All borrowing resolutions for capital purposes are prepared by the Department for the local councils. Once passed by the council, they are returned for the Minister's approval. A number of other resolutions which require the Department's approval are reviewed by the solicitors before being submitted to the Minister. A number of model by-laws are available to municipalities to use as a guide.

The solicitors occasionally provide information and advice to municipal solicitors, when requested, although the municipalities are urged to rely on their own solicitors for legal advice.

Personnel

The objective of the Personnel Section is to provide for the Department a global approach to ensure employee development to meet the needs of the Department and to ensure the administration of the payroll and personnel policies of government.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The objective of the Finance and Administration Division is to ensure that sound financial management is practised in the administration of the Department's budget as it relates to the internal operation as well as to the several municipal grant programs to administered by the Division. Theseobjectives are met through the assignment of specific responsibilities to each of the five sections comprising the Division - administrative services, statistics and systems, grants and finance, municipal training, and urban transportation.

Adminstrative Services

On an ongoing basis, the emphasis of the administrative services section is an internal financial management. This extends to the maintenance of effective budgetary and accounting procedures, maintenance of equipment and inventories, and administration of government directives and policies aimed at maximizing Departmental resources.

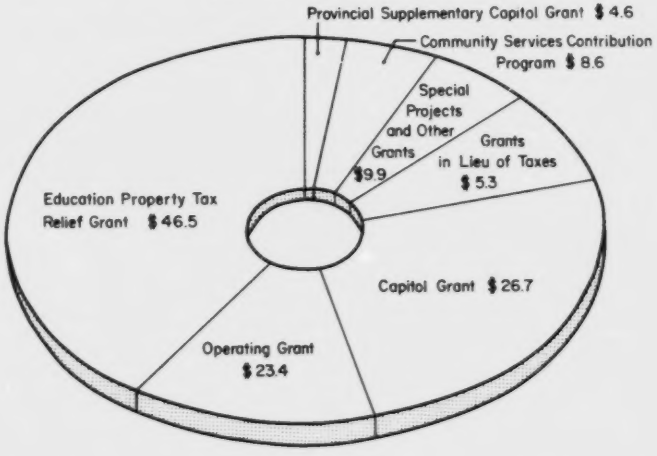
Statistics and Systems

This section is responsible for the development and co-ordination of accounting, auditing, and reporting systems for use by municipalities based on standards of consistency and uniformity. Staff annually collect and compile financial and other statistical information form the reports submitted by local governments to be used in estimating and verifying grant entitlements, analyzing the financial condition of municipalities, researching new proposals for provin-

cial-municipal grant programs, and annual publication of the booklet, "Municipal Statistics".

Grants and Finance

This section is responsible for the effective implementation, administration, and evaluation of the various grant programs available to municipalities through the Finance and Administration Division. During 1981-82, a total of $125.8 million in grants and assistance was distributed through this section of the Division. As referenced in the accompanying chart, the majority of these grants, $105.0 million, was paid purusant to the Municipal Grants Act. Throughout the past year staff has been involved in the preparation of financial impact reports and analyses on various matters of concern to the Department and to municipal government.


Provincial Supplementary Capitol Grant $ 4.6
Community Services Contribution Program $ 8.6
Special Projects and Other Grants $9.9
Grants in Lieu of Taxes $ 5.3
Education Property Tax Relief Grant $ 46.5
Capitol Grant $ 26.7
Operating Grant $ 23.4

DOLLAR DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS BY PROGRAM (in millions)

Municipal Training

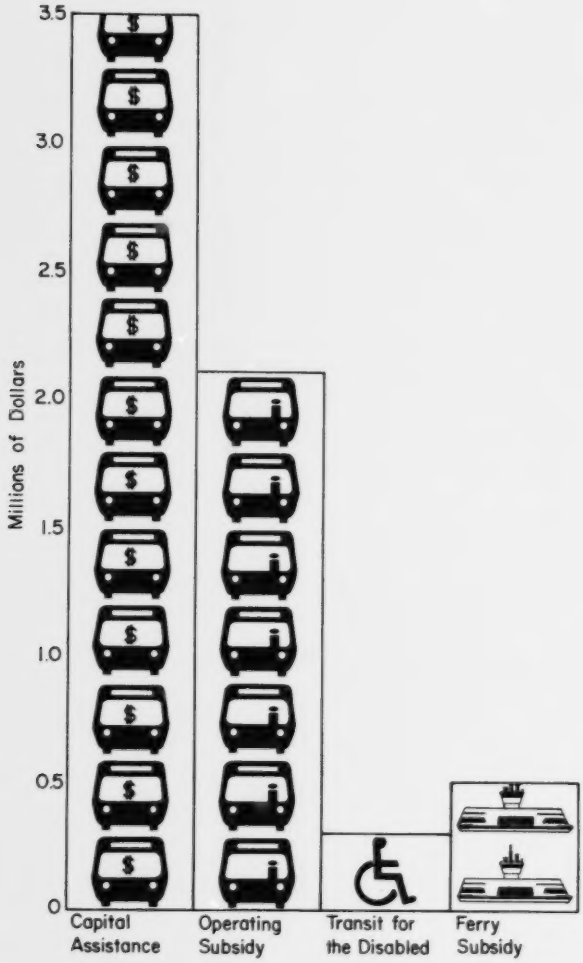
The Municipal training services section provides a support function to the Department by organizing and managing several training and educational programs.

Through advice and assistance in the organization of seminars and conferences to diverse municipal groups, including building inspectors, development officers and tax collectors, the Department maintains a close liaison with current developments in the training of municipal public employees.

Urban Transportation

Through the Urban Transportation section the Department provides financial assistance to Regional Transit Authorities to assist public transit in making an effective contribution towards the social, economic, and mobility needs of all citizens. During 1981-82, a total of $6.4 million in grants and assistance was paid to transit properties throughout the Province. The accompanying chart provides a breakdown of the amounts paid under the various components of the Urban Transit Program.

Throughout the past year staff has worked with transit management in an effort to improve their information systems. These efforts resulted in the completion of detailed passenger counts for two transit properties, and the publication of two reports, Transit Routes in Nova Scotia and Transit Passenger Count Manual.



URBAN TRANSIT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY SERVICES

The Municipal Advisory Services Division provides assistance to elected and appointed municipal officials in the areas of administration, budgeting, financing, accounting, auditing and reporting.

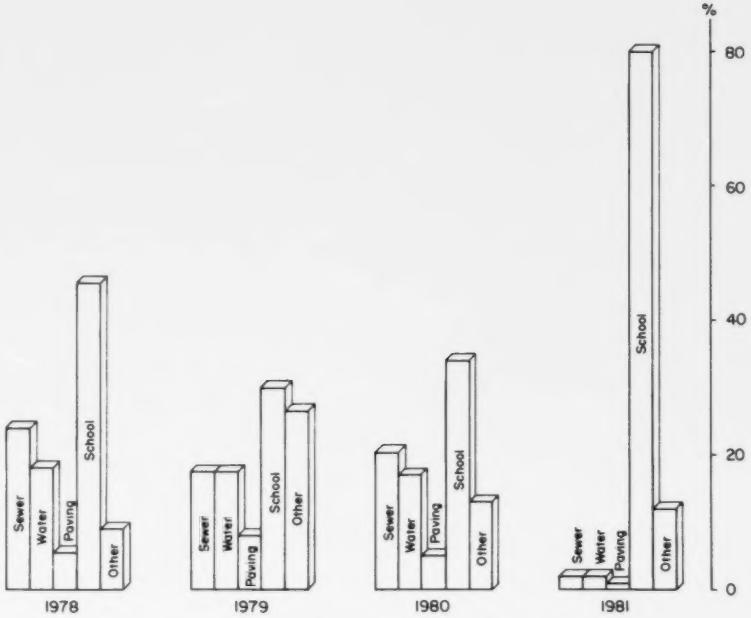
On an ongoing basis, the Division is involved with the review of municipal operating and capital budgets; preparation of temporary borrowing and issuing resolutions; scheduling of debenture issues; detailed financial analysis on those municipal units experiencing financial difficulties; and in other areas such as the co-ordination of municipal intergovernmental programs.

The Division continued to co-ordinate the tax billing for those municipal units requesting the service, and provided the interface to facilitate the tax billing process for municipal units having electronic data processing capabilities.

The Division also provided assistance in the following areas of municipal concern:

(a) The introduction of a new capital budget.
(b) The implications of changes in the funding of Education.
(c) The municipal financial impact due to a transition from a municipal school board status to a member of a district school status.
(d) The changes in the dual tax rate resulting from the abolition of the education property tax relief grant.
(e) The disposition of capital grant funds.

The Municipal Grants Act became effective for the year 1980, and the Division was active in providing assistance to municipal units to implement the new program.

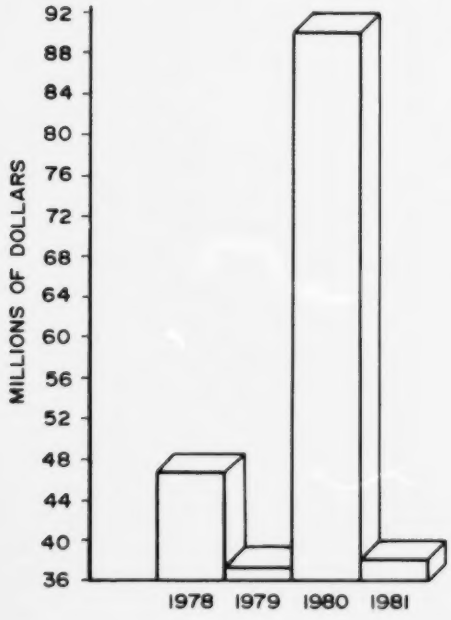


DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDED MUNICIPAL DEBT BY FUNCTION

The Division is represented on a joint committee of the association of Municipal Administrators and the Department to discuss items of common interest mainly in the areas of accounting and reporting.

In addition to the above, the Division represented the Department at the Intergovernmental Conference on Local Government Information Development, and has a representative on the joint UNSM-DMA Task Force on Municipal Reform.

TOTAL MUNICIPAL DEBT FUNDED
Including sewer, water, paving, school, other



POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

Policy Development and Research was established in response to a growing need within the Department to have an increased capacity to develop, through research and consultation with affected parties, policies and programs aimed at resolving the various problems arising from changing needs in municipal government.

The Division is responsible for the formulation of policy and operational alternatives for consideration by the Department, the government, and where appropriate, the municipalities, and for making recommendations thereon. It is also responsible for research to be used as the basis for policy decisions. It monitors current and proposed polcies and programs at all government levels which affect municipal government in Nova Scotia and brings to the attention of the department and the Minister actual or potential problem areas. The Division is also required to formulate and advance a range of alternative solutions or policies with respect to identified problems together with the recommendations thereof for implementation by the Department or Government.

Over the past year a considerable amount of effort was spent in preparing working documents for consideration by the Joint Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities - Department of Municipal Affairs Task Force on Municipal Reform. The Task Force meets every second week to map out areas of municipal reform and work out solutions to current and emerging problems of concern to local goverment.

An important part of the Division's work has been the preparation of office consolidations of the major statutes affecting Municipal Government: the Assessment Act, the Municipal Act, the Municipal Affairs Act, the Municipal Elections Act, and the Towns Act. The Division regularly updates each of these office consolidations to reflect recent amendments.

Other Division activities included preparation of the Annual Report to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities which summarizes the responses of the relevant Departments to the resolutions passed by the Union at its annual convention, co-ordinating the compilation of both the Department's Annual Report and "Financial Assistance Programs for Nova Scotia Municipalities". This latter compendium has proved to be of considerable assistance to the municipalities.

LEGISLATION

Legislation Administered by the Department of Municipal Affairs

Assessment Act (c.14) and Regulations
Bonus Act (c.26)
Building Access Act (1976, c.7)
*Building Code Act (1977, c.5)
Ditches and Water Courses Act (c.78)
Fences and Impounding of Animals Act (c.104)
*Industrial Commissions Act (c.137)
Louisbourg District Planning & Development Act (1963, c.6)
Municipal Act (c.192), Office Consolidation
Municipal Affairs Act (c.193)
Municipal Boundaries and Representation Act (c.195)
Municipal Elections Act (1978-79, c.4), Office Consolidation
Municipal Finance Corporation Act (1978-79, c.5)
Municipal Grants Act (1980, c.10)
*Municipal Housing Corporations Act (c.200)
Municipal Land Transfer Tax Act (1968, c.10)
*Municipal Loan and Building Fund Act (c.201)
*Municipal Taxation Time Extension Act (1970, c.9)
Peggy's Cove Commission Act (1962, c.10)
Planning Act (1969, c.16) and Regulations
Regional Transit Authority Act (1978-79, c.7)
*Rural Fire District Act (c.272)
Sheep Protection and Dog Regulation Act (c.281)
Stray Animals Act (c.294)
Towns Act (c.309), Office Consolidation
Village Services Act (c.329)

Copies of most of these Acts are available from:

Nova Scotia Government Bookstore
P.O. Box 637
1597 Hollis Street
Halifax, N.S.
B3J 2T3

(902) 424-7580

Copies marked "*" are not available at the Bookstore but can be obtained through the Department and the Legislative Library.

Changes in Legislation
Spring Session 1981

New Statutes

1981, c.4 — The Gulf Oil Canada Limited Tax Sharing Act provides for the percentage to be paid of taxes for general municipal purposes levied on the property of the Company by the County of Richmond for the year 1981 and for its distribution.

1981, c.9 — The Municipal Board Act transfers responsibility to the newly created Municipal Board for the following: planning appeals previously dealt with by the Planning Appeal Board, appeals formerly taken from the Assessment Appeal Court to the County Court, and matters previously heard by the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities under the Municipal Boundaries and Representation Act.

Amendments

1981, c.36 — Amendments to the Municipal Act provide for the establishment by a municipality of business improvement districts and the establishment of waste-water management districts. A number of other minor amendments were also made.

Changes in Legislation, Spring Session, 1981 (continued)

1981, c.37 — An amendment to the Municipal Boundaries and Representation Act gives the Nova Scotia Municipal Board jurisdiction to order the dissolution of wards or polling districts in a municipality.

1981, c.43 — Amendments to the Towns Act provide for the establishment by a town of business improvment districts and commissions for such districts, and the establishment of waste-water management districts. A number of other minor amendments were also made.

1981, c.64 — An amendment to the Municipal Elections Act corrects a reference in the Act.

1981, c.65 — An amendment to the Municipal Finance Corporation Act deletes the exclusion of the City of Halifax under definition of "municipality".

1981, c.66 — Amendments to the Municipal Grants Act remove business occupancy assessment from the section specifying the cases in which a grant-in-lieu of property taxes will not be paid, qualify the calculation of uniform assessment for an area, and

Changes in Legislation, Spring Session, 1981 (continued)

1981, c.66 (continued)	add revenue derived from taxation of any municipal water utility to the list of exclusions of revenue under the section dealing with the shareable operating costs of education.

PRINTED MATERIALS

Title: Department of Municipal Affairs Annual Report

Contents: A general overview of the Department and its activities

Title: Department of Municipal Affairs Annual Report of Municipal Statistics

Contents: Published annually since 1909, this document provides extensive statistical information, primarily financial, about municipal government in Nova Scotia

Title: Financial Assistance Programs For Nova Scotia Municipalities

Contents: A digest to the various grants available to municipalities in Nova Scotia from both provincial and federal government departments and agencies

Title: Planning Appeal Decisions

Contents: Contains the decisions of the Planning Appeal Board for every appeal determined by the Board

1982

Planning and Management
(Nova Scotia Planning Seminar)

Nova Scotia Water and Sewer Inventory

Retail Trade Shoppers Survey (6 vols.)

Merchants Survey

1981

The Assessment of Your Residence

Final Report and Recommendations of the Planning Act Review Committee

Five Options for the Incorporation of "Sackville" as a Municipal Unit

Nova Scotia in the 1980's and 90's: A Look to the Future

1979-1980

A Guide to Legislation Relevant to Planning

A Guide to Mini-Computers

Instructions to Deputy Returning Officers, Poll Clerks and Candidates' Agents at Municipal Elections

Rural Zoning Approaches

Towns Act - Office Consolidation

1979-1980 (continued)

Zoning- Making It Work

The Land Subdivision Process

1978

Model Town Zoning By-law

1977

Economy of Colchester County

Economy of Hants County

1976

Municipal Services Act - Regulations and Amendments

1975

Halifax-Dartmouth Regional Development Plan

Planning for Parks and Recreation

Regulation of Scrapyards, Junkyards and Similar Use

1973

Before You Build

Before You Buy A Lot

Before You Subdivide

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(Municipalities of Annapolis and Digby; Towns of Annapolis Royal, Bridgetown, Digby and Middleton)
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Basement, Municipal Building
P.O. Box 237
532 - 2374
Digby, Digby Co. B0V 1A0
2nd Floor
Court House Building

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1st Floor, Municipal Bldg.
533 - 2154

Cape Breton Region:
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Civic Centre, P.O. Box 1178
539 - 4900

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895 - 6354; 895 - 6355

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P.O. Box 4
667 - 3398
Springhill 597 - 8511

Dartmouth City Region:
Dartmouth, Halifax Co. B2Y 3Z3
3rd Floor, City Hall
Alderney Drive, P.O. Box 817
421 - 2156

Halifax County Region:
(Municipality of Halifax Co.; Town of Bedford)
Armdale, Halifax Co. B3L 4K3
1st floor, Municipal Building
38 Dutch Village Road
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477 - 5641

Halifax City Region:
Halifax, Halifax Co. B3J 3A5
3rd Floor, Duke Street Tower
Scotia Square
P.O. Box 1749
426 - 6445

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Corner Gerrish & Grey Streets
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798 - 8337

Milford, Hants Co. B0N 1Y0
1st Floor, Municipal Building
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Shubenacadie B0N 1Y0
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Port Hood, B0E 2W0
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Baddeck, B0E 1B0
2nd Floor, Court House
295 - 2568

Arichat, B0E 1A0
1st Floor, Municipal Building
226 - 3688

Port Hawkesbury, B0E 2V0
2nd Floor, Town Hall
625 - 2318

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Municipal Building
Cornwallis Street
P.O. Box 394
678 - 3618

Lunenburg Region:
(Municipalities of Lunenburg and Chester; Towns of Lunenburg, Bridgewater and Mahone Bay)

Bridgewater, Lunenburg Co. B4V 2W6
215 Dominion St.
1st Floor, Court House
P.O. Box 86
543 - 4344

Lunenburg, Lunenburg Co. B0J 1J0
Court House
634 - 4813

Chester, Lunenburg Co. B0J 1J0
Municipal Building
275 - 3554

Pictou Region:
(Municipality of Pictou; Towns of New Glasgow, Trenton, Stellarton, Westville and Pictou)

Westville, Pictou Co. B0K 2A0
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Hammond St., P.O. Box 729
875 - 4665

Liverpool, Queens Co. B0T 1K0
Max Harding Building
Main Street, 2nd Floor
354 - 3161

Barrington, Shelburne Co. B0W 1E0
1st Floor, Municipal Bldg.
637 - 2428

Yarmouth-Clare Region:
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